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Letter dated 6 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to yet another breach of the Blue Line that has jeopardized security along Israel's northern border.

On Friday evening, 26 January 2001, a terrorist cell attempted to infiltrate Israeli territory from Lebanon. Soldiers of the Israel Defence Forces spotted several armed men on the Israeli side of the Blue Line in the area of Har Dov, in the vicinity of the Shab'a Farms, and opened fire, killing two terrorists and wounding a third as he escaped back into Lebanon. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack and called for a continuation of the armed struggle against Israel.

Israel holds the Government of Lebanon fully responsible for this latest violation of the Blue Line. Unfortunately, this is yet another in a growing list of violations that have occurred in the wake of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, in full compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). I have detailed these violations in a series of letters over the last several months, most recently in my letters of 26 November 2000 (S/2000/1121), 23 October 2000 (S/2000/1011), 19 October 2000 (S/2000/1002) and 7 October 2000 (S/2000/969).

To date, the Government of Lebanon has failed to take the steps required of it under Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 1310 (2000), specifically the return of its effective authority through the deployment of the Lebanese armed forces in the area, and the preservation of a calm environment throughout the south. This failure was underscored as recently as 30 January 2001, when the Council adopted resolution 1337 (2001) welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon of 22 January 2001 (S/2001/66), reconfirming Israel's compliance with resolution 425 (1978) and reiterating its call on the Government of Lebanon to "ensure the return of its effective authority and presence in the south, and in particular to increase the rate of the deployment of the Lebanese armed forces" and to "ensure a calm environment throughout the south" (resolution 1337 (2001), paras. 5 and 6).

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Israel calls, once again, upon the Government of Lebanon to fulfil its obligations pursuant to the resolutions of the Security Council, to deploy its armed forces up to the Blue Line and to restore peace and security to our common border.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative